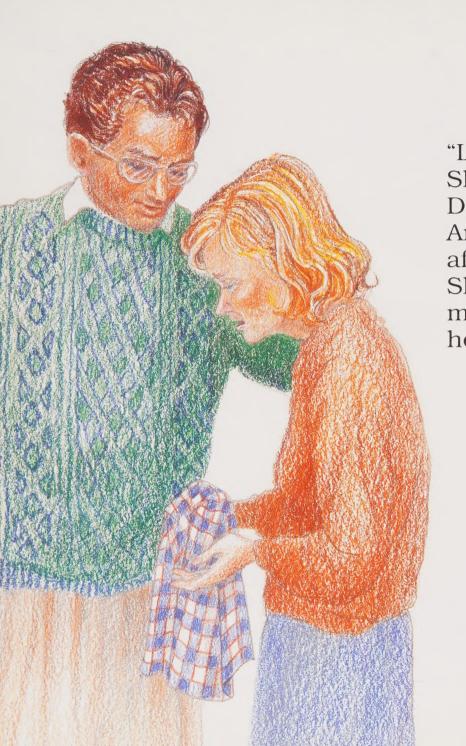


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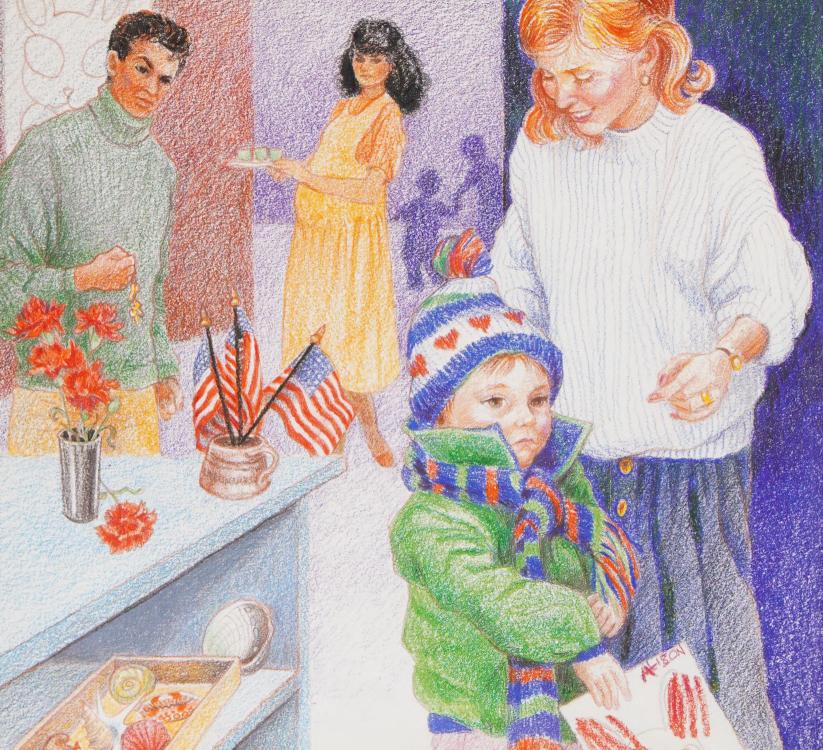
The story by Doris Sanford Pictures by Graci Evans

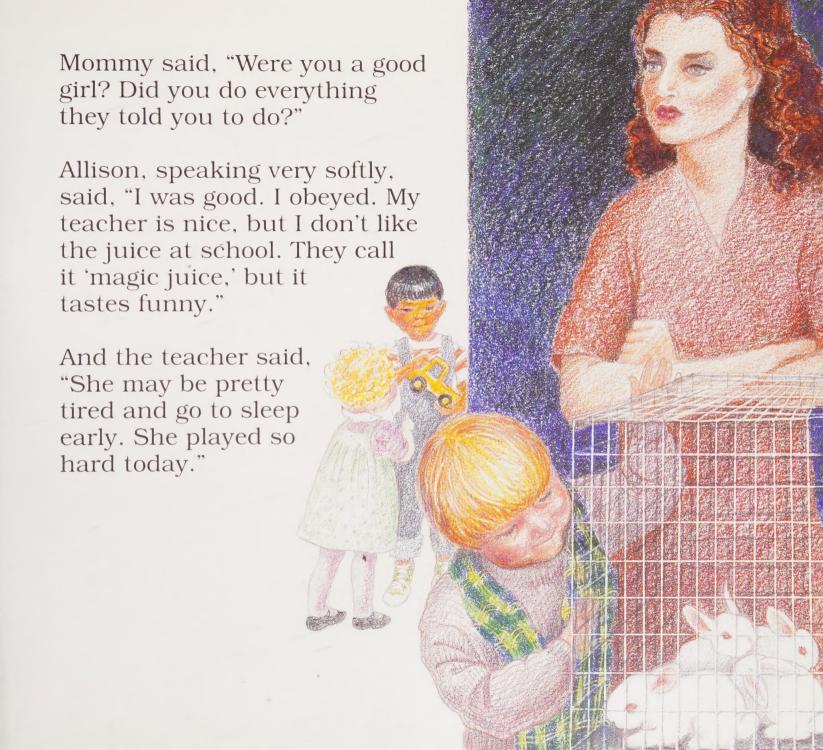


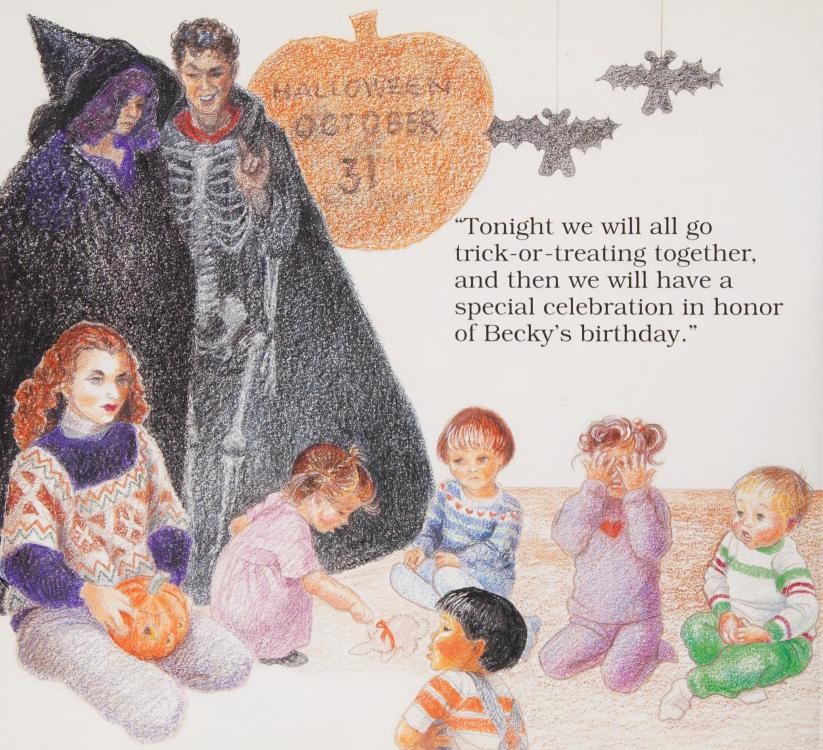


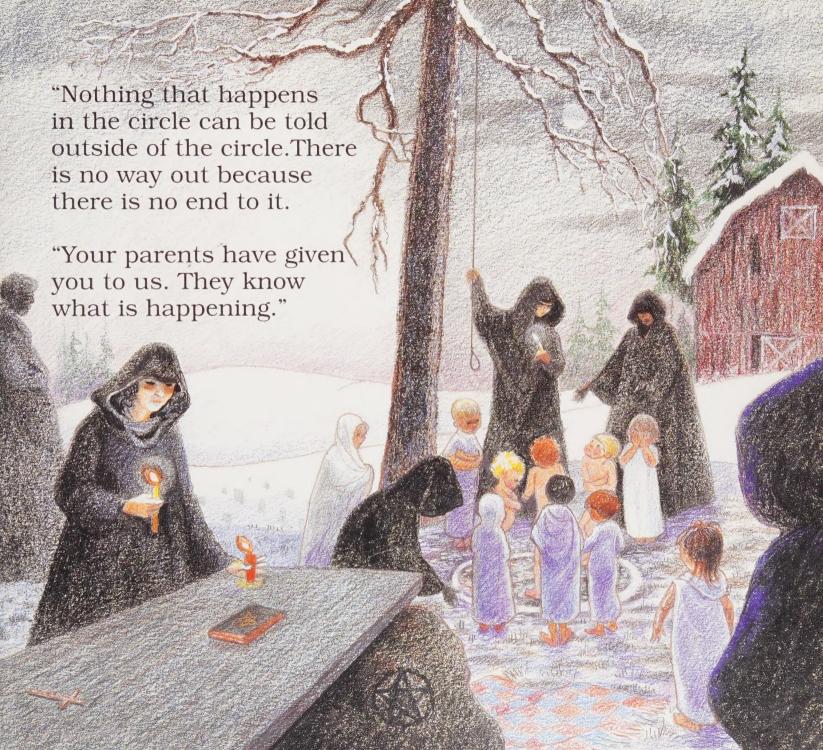
"Look, she didn't eat again. She used to love chicken. Do you think she's sick? And another thing, she acts afraid most of the time. She doesn't want to leave my side. She's even afraid of her sixth birthday!"













"I don't want to go to the MOVIE STAR ROOM at day care. I know everybody has to go, even you, but I HATE it when they take my clothes off. I must really be bad for my parents to let them do this to me. They said something terrible would happen to my parents if I told them about this."



"I don't want to take my clothes off for the doctor and walk around naked. He'll give me 'bad shots,' Mommy. There will be more bad things happen. I want to go home. I already HAD the 'magic surgery.' They put a monster in me."



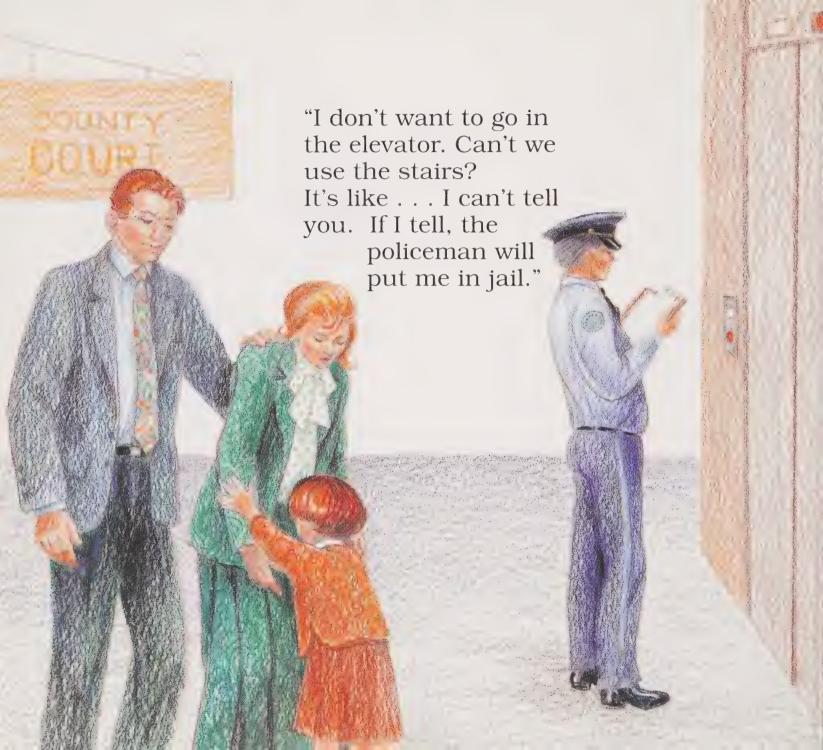
"Doctor, she has terrible nightmares, she won't eat some foods, and she becomes upset when I ask her to wear certain clothes. SOMETHING IS WRONG. She even bit the dog this week. Look at her now, pretending to be dead! I think something bad has happened to her at that day care center!"

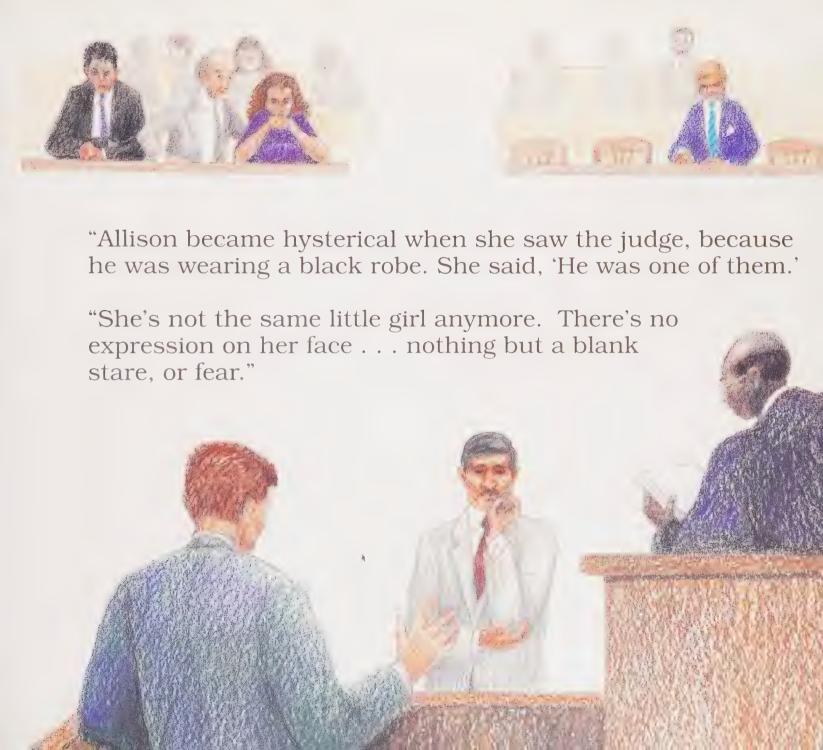
"My other mommy said I don't have to use the potty anymore. I don't live at YOUR house, I live at MY house, you know.

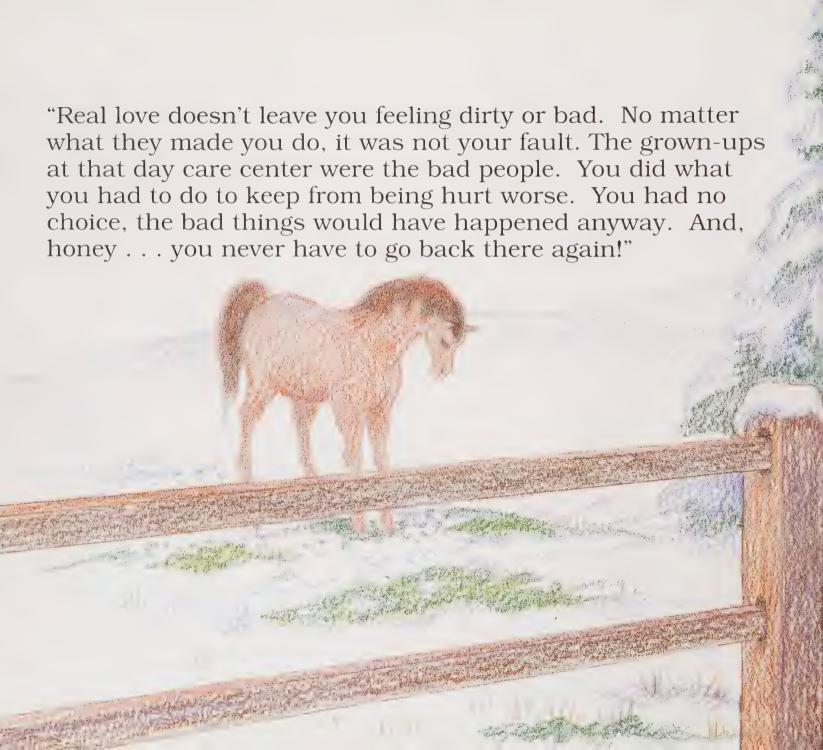
"I don't want the medicine on my bottom, and I don't want any more pictures of me in the movie star room. They hurt me, Mommy. I'm bad, really bad."

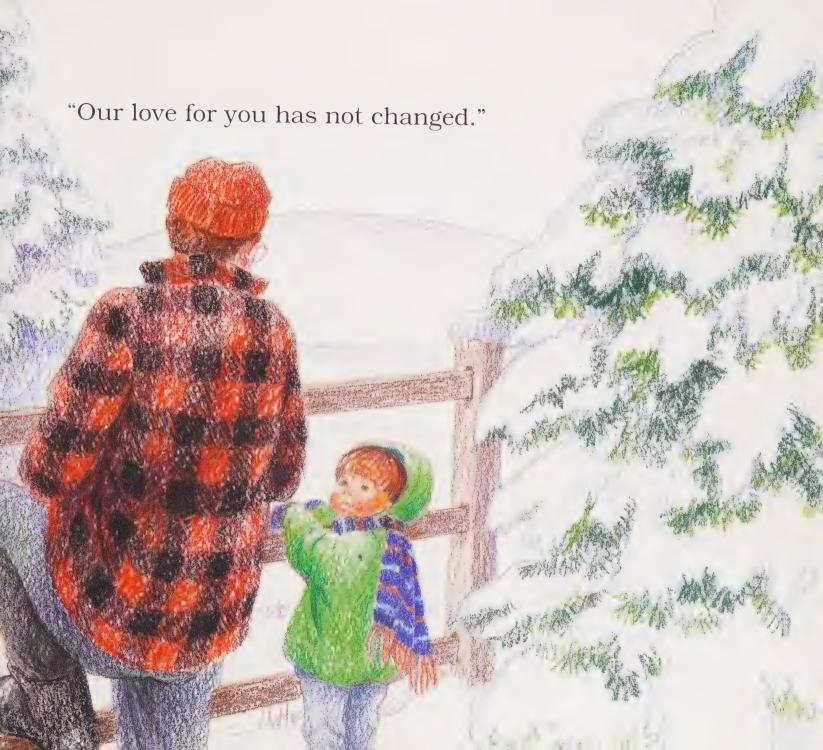






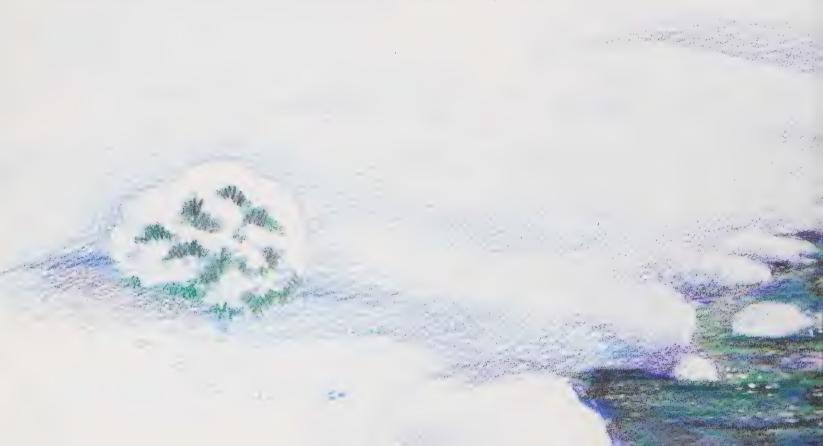






"Your mom and I did not know about the bad things happening to you. If we had known, we would have come to get you and take you home. We are proud of you for making it through some awful times, and we are very sorry that you were hurt.

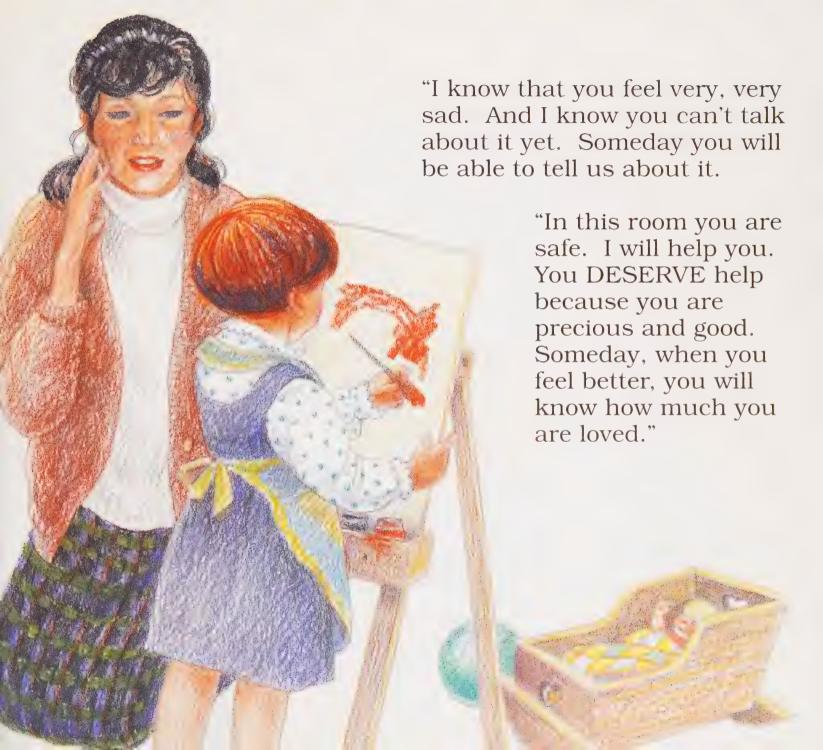
"I know you are mixed up about God right now because of what those bad people told you. God cried with you when you were hurt. He loves you very, very much."

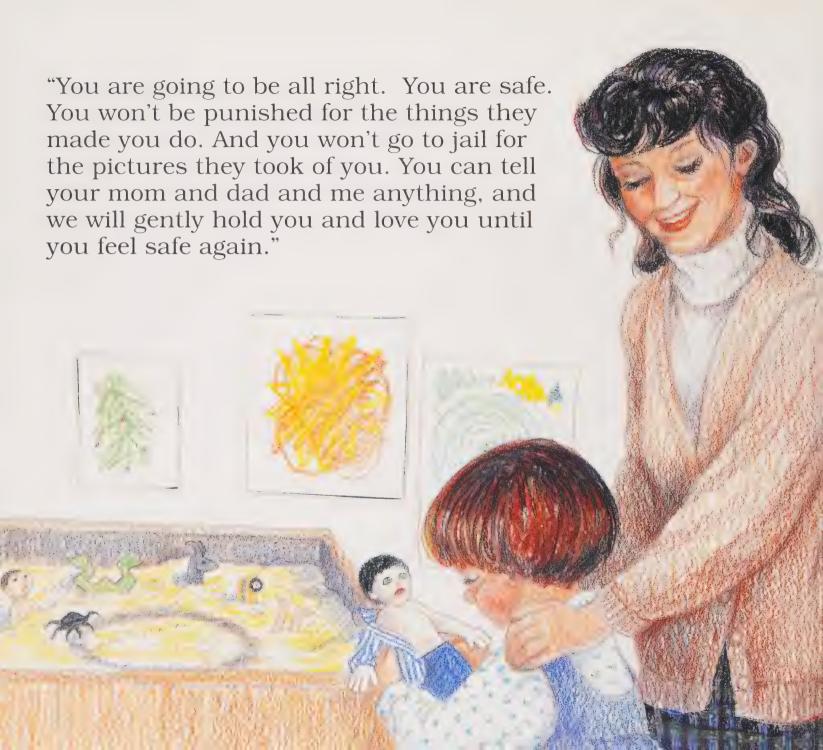


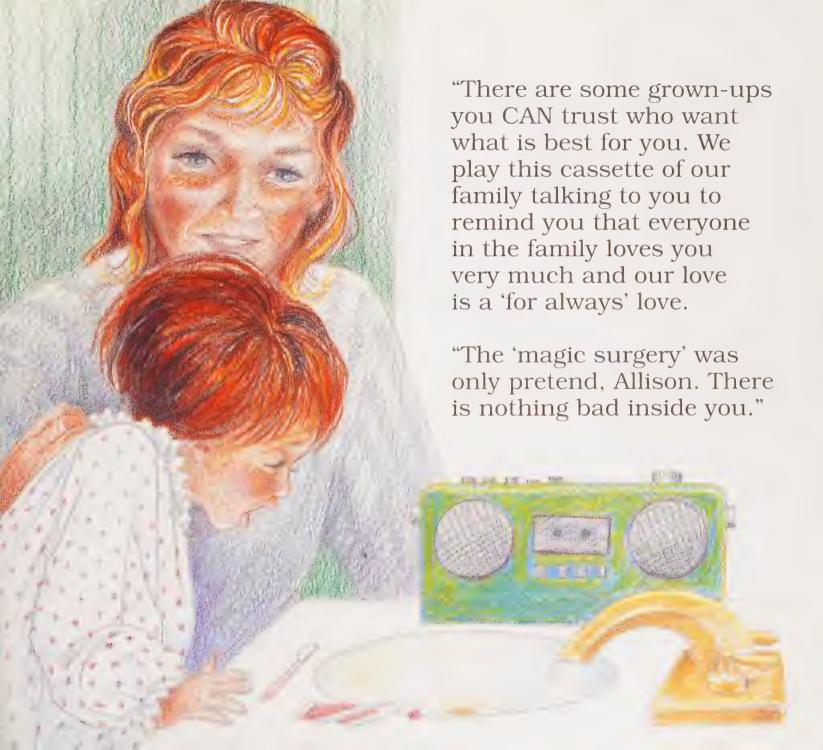


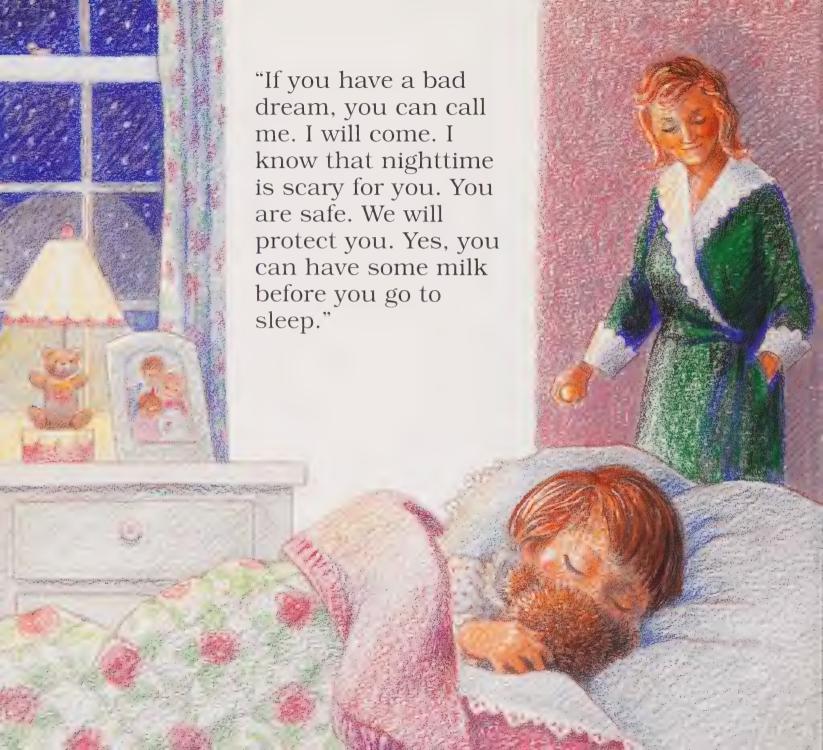
"I know you were told you CAN'T take this down, and that the ears hear and the eyes see everything you are doing. They lied to you. I know they told you that someone is watching you, and that no one would believe you if you told the secrets. But those were all lies. We DO believe you, and nothing bad will happen to you for telling. YOU DID THE RIGHT THING!

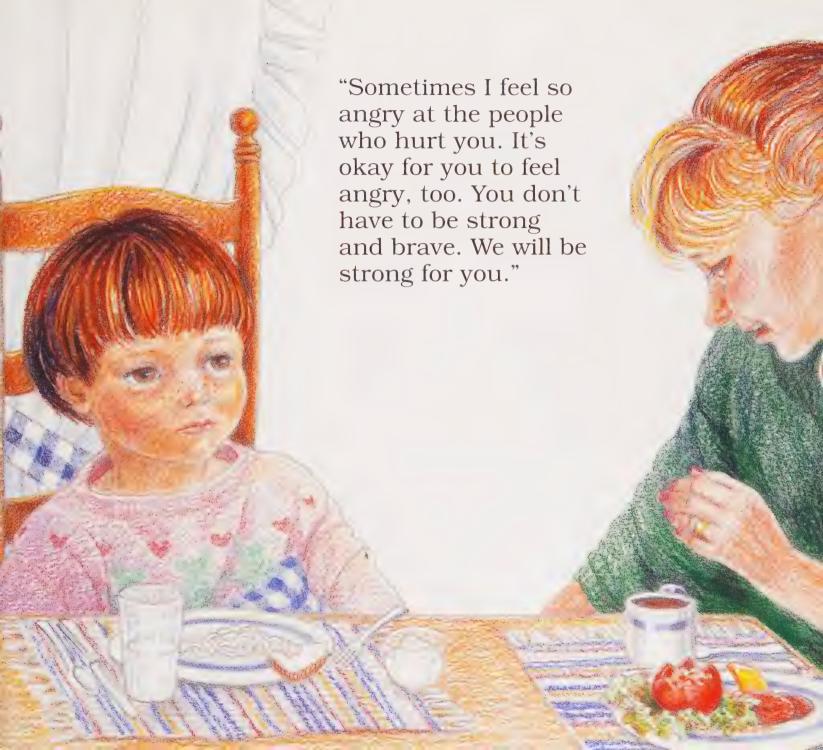


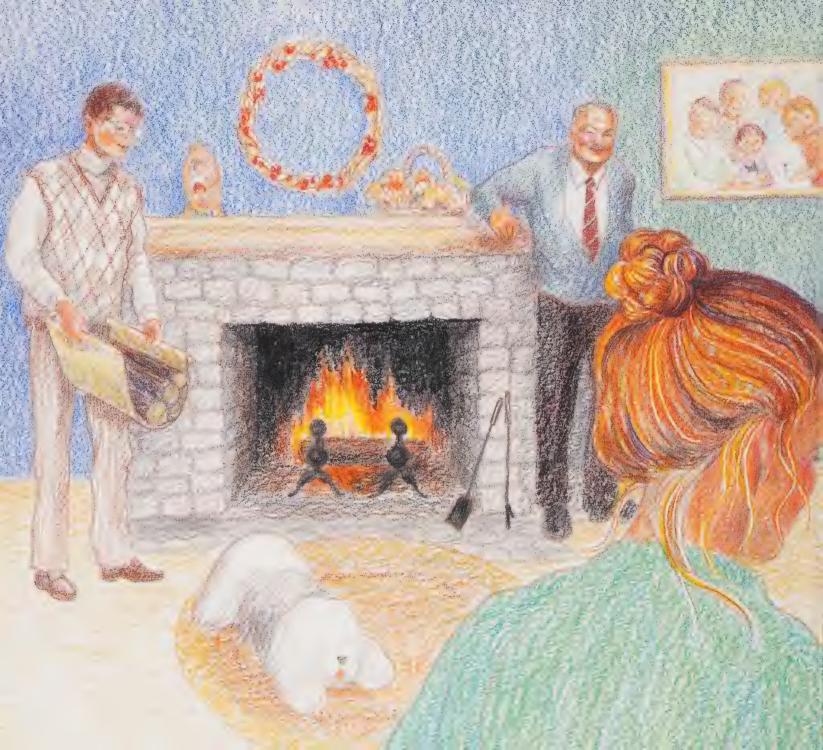














Dear Parent,

Children who are survivors of ritual abuse need a therapist with experience in working with these children, but most of all, your child needs YOU.

- 1. Don't let your anger at the abusers take so much energy that you are distracted from being with and loving your child. When a parent is angry, children feel they have caused the anger.
- 2. Children who have participated in rituals or have been told they are "Satan's children" may feel attacked when the abuser's behavior is condemned. Clearly state that the child was not responsible.
- 3. To understand ritual abuse, you must think in opposites, i.e., good is bad, wrong is right, etc.
- 4. Be sensitive in talking about God, and do not force the child to participate in taking communion, which the child may associate with blood. Keep in mind that the abusers have sometimes worn clerical robes during the abuse.

5. Don't tell children they need to be strong. Children need permission to feel whatever feelings they have.

- 6. Listen to your child. Don't show any horror or repulsion, because your child will assume he or she has caused those feelings. Do let the child know that you feel very sad about the abuse.
- 7. Don't interrogate the child about what happened. The child will talk about it in her own way when she is able. Be patient.
- 8. Some especially frightening experiences for the child are: Halloween, the child's sixth birthday, nighttime, bathrooms, certain foods that remind the child of particular rituals.
- 9. Many ritually abused children have special fears related to water and to small enclosed spaces. These may bring back terrifying memories.
- 10. Children can and do heal. Pray for them and surround them with unconditional love.



When five-year-old Allison's parents begin to see a change in her behavior at home, they seek professional help for her. They find that Allison and other children have been ritually abused at a day care center. Thus begins Allison's recovery through counseling and through her parents' affirmations that it was not her fault, that she is precious and loved, and they will keep her safe.

* * * *

Ritual Abuse is a brutal form of child abuse that includes sexual, physical, psychological, and spiritual abuse involving the use of rituals, often as part of satanic religious practice.

The location, events, and family portrayed in this story do not represent any particular location or individuals. The "storyline" has been presented in vignettes—little glimpses—into many possible ways that ritual abuse occurs. The words of the text and the objects and situations illustrated are based on months of intensive research into the nature and practice of satanic ritual abuse. Any child who has been ritually abused will recognize the validity of this story and will be able to relate to most of the scenes portrayed.



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